Wentworth Club Announces Retirement of Chris Kennedy

The Wentworth Club Golf Courses Manager, Chris Kennedy, is retiring from his position after 22 years exemplary service.

Chris, who joined the Club in February 1990, will continue to work until June 29 and be responsible for his final BMW PGA Championship in May.

When Chris retires he will have managed the course presentation at Wentworth for a staggering 52 European Tour Professional Golf Tournaments.

Julian Small, Chief Executive of Wentworth Club, commented: "We wish Chris the very best in his retirement. He has been an exceptional member of the team here and overseen significant development of all our golf courses. I don’t think there is a Golf Course development of all our golf courses."

Chris Kennedy will join Wentworth at the end of April. Currently Director of Golf Courses and Grounds at The Belfry since 2005, Kenny has gained a wealth of experience in golf course management and professional golf tournament preparation over the last 18 years, forging an enviable Curriculum Vitae including previous roles at The London Golf Club, Harrow Manor and The Forest of Arden. He is also a Past Chairman of BIGGA.

Kenny stated “I am very excited about this new challenge and realise that I am joining a world class venue with a superb tournament history. I look forward to the professional challenges that come with the events along with meeting and getting to know the members.”

"Chris Kennedy has achieved much here over the years, and now looking forward, I feel excited for all that lies ahead for me at Wentworth Club.”

Chris said of his time at the Club, “It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have been Golf Courses Manager for the last 22 years at Wentworth Club. I would like to thank both Elliott Bernerd and Richard Caring, the two owners of the Club during my time here, for giving myself and the team the chance to be involved in all the course changes over the years.

Wentworth is a special golfing venue with three wonderful courses, all different. Working with the Tour for the PGA Championship is the highlight of the year and all the boys have worked hard over the years to help make the event so great."

I would like to welcome Kenny Mackay to the Club as my replacement and working with him during our handover period. I know he will do a great job. Finally after 50 years in the golf industry, Jill and I are going home to Scotland to play some golf and spend time with our families.”

J.R.D. Palmer (David) 1926 to 2012

David Palmer known across the trade for developing and guiding Supaturf Products LTD through the 60s 70s and 80s, died earlier this month after a battle with Alzheimer’s disease.

David was a long time supporter of BIGGA serving on the show steering committee for a number of years. His interest and passion for the amenity industry was partly generated through his long and successful rugby career, playing for Coventry, Leicester Tigers and captaining Leicestershire in the 50s.

His many years in the trade as MD and Owner of Supaturf Products LTD saw him build the company through the fledgling days of the amenity industry. Manufacturing fertilisers specifically for use on golf courses and sports facilities at the G.A Palmer Ltd factory in Peterborough through the early 60s and carrying out important development work in turf nutrition.

David built up the business over a 35 year period and Supaturf became known countrywide with five depots across England through the 80s, offering a vast range of supplies to the industry.

He further increased Supaturf sales across the world through the 90s selling products across Europe and as far afield as the southern hemisphere, before retiring in 2000.

David is survived by wife, Jane, sons, Michael and Marcus, and his five grandchildren.

In memory of David the following website has been set up to help collect vital funds so that modern medicine can get a greater understanding and hopefully a future cure for Alzheimer’s disease, that today effects so many people.

www.justgiving.com/remember/2293/David-Palmer

100 in 100

The My Apprentice 2012’ scheme was launched at Myconversion College last month by local MP Ben Wallace, well known Lancashire Chief, Nigel Haworth, and Edwin Booth, Myconver College Patron. It is a year-long campaign dedicated to increasing the number of Apprenticeship opportunities across both public and private sectors, with a specific focus on targeting the land based (Agriculture, Horticulture and Sports turf) and sports industries.

The business breakfast was used to launch the College’s first major ‘My Apprentice 2012’ event - a ’100 in 100’ days campaign. The ‘100 in 100’ concept will see, Myconver College attempt to generate and secure 100 Apprenticeship placements across the private and public sector within 100 days, with a particular focus on targeting the land based and sports industries.

The ‘100 in 100’ campaign was designed to bring together training providers, public and private sector business leaders, the National Apprenticeship Service and local media to work in partnership to deliver a sustained campaign to increase Apprenticeship opportuni- ties and placements.

NEW ROLE FOR RUSSELL

One of the Sports turf industries best known faces, Russell Latham, has left the Mansfield Sand & Turf Company after 13 years service to take up his new position as European Sales Director for Clive Richardson (International) Ltd. An amalgamation of two well known sports turf contracting companies, Clive Richardson Ltd and Former Pitchfix Ltd formed to identify and develop new opportunities in the golf course, highly competitive area of sports pitch construction, maintenance and renovation.

Both will still operate independently with existing clients although Russell will also be responsible for forging and maintaining links with new clients under the CSR banner.
GI NEWSDESK
The latest news from around the globe

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Julian Small, Chief Executive of Wentworth Club, commented: “We wish Chris the very best in his retirement. He has been an exceptional member of the team here and overseen significant development of all our golf courses. I don’t think there is a Golf Course Manager in the world that can bring the various elements together. Chris Kennedy has achieved so much here over the years, and now looking forward, I feel excited for all that lies ahead for me at Wentworth Club.”

Chris said of his time at the Club, “It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have been Golf Courses Manager for the last 22 years at Wentworth Club. I would like to thank both Elliott Bernard and Richard Caring, the two owners of the Club during my time here, for giving myself and the team the chance to be involved in all the course changes over the years. Wentworth is a special golfing venue with three wonderful courses, all different. Working with the Tour for the PGA Championship is the highlight of the year and all the boys have worked hard over the years to help make the event so great. I would like to welcome Kenny Mackay to the Club as my replacement and working with him during our handover period. I am sure he will enjoy the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with our members, particularly at our conference in Nice and our other official functions. “This new partnership category allows consultants to promote their services directly to golf course architects, as well as our other partners, and helps to bring the various elements of our industry closer together.”

Chris’ successor, Kenny Mackay, will join Wentworth at the end of April. Currently Director of Golf Courses and Grounds at The Belffy since 2005, Kenny has gained a wealth of experience in golf course management and professional golf tournament preparation over the last 18 years, forging an enviable Curriculum Vitae including previous roles at The London Golf Club, Harrowby Manor and The Forest of Arden. He is also a Past Chairman of BIGHA.

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For more info: julian.small@wentworthclub.com

EGICA Partner
The European Institute of Golf Course Architects has announced that Giles Wardle has become an EGICA Consultant Partner. A Chartered Engineer, Giles is a partner with Implant. EGICA Consultant Partner is a new partnership category for golf course consultants with the aim of increasing interaction between the EGICA and other professionals in the golf industry. The scheme is open to all consultants who are working in a solely fee based, professional practice, associated with the golf course design business.

Julian Small, EGICA Executive Officer, said: “I would like to welcome Giles Wardle as the EGICA’s first Consultant Partner. I am sure they will enjoy the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with our members, particularly at our conference in Nice and our other official functions. "This new partnership category allows consultants to promote their services directly to golf course architects, as well as our other partners, and helps to bring the various elements of our industry closer together.”

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It is a year-long campaign dedicated to increasing the number of Apprenticeship opportunities across both public and private sectors, with a specific focus on targeting the land based (Agriculture, Horticulture and Sports turf) and sports industries.

The business breakfast was used to launch the College’s first major ‘My Apprentice 2012’ event - a ‘100 in 100’ days campaign. The ‘100 in 100’ concept will see. Myerscough College attempt to generate and secure 100 Apprenticeship placements across the private and public sector within 100 days, with a particular focus on targeting the land based and sports industries.

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An amalgamation of two well known sports turf contracting companies, Clive Richardson Ltd (CRL) and Premier Pitches Ltd, formed to identify and develop new opportunities in the golf course, highly competitive area of sports pitch construction, maintenance and renovation.

Both will still operate independently with existing clients although Russell will also be responsible for for finding and maintaining links with new clients under the CRL banner.

Please email your news items and press releases to The Editor, Scott MacCallum scott@bigga.co.uk

Gary Lawson with Chris Kennedy EGICA at the Golf Course Architect Conference in Nice 2012
Carnoustie’s John Philp to Retire

Carnoustie’s Links Superintendent, John Philip MBE is retiring this June after 26 years in charge of the Links.

Announcing his retirement, John said: “I consider it to have been a privilege to have been part of a great team effort whose original target was the resurgence of Carnoustie Links in world golf. I have cherished many moments experienced over the last 26 years and none more so than the return of The Open to Carnoustie. That was the major highlight.”

During his tenure, the course has also staged the Scottish Open, Dunbar Links, Senior Open and, last year, for the first time, the Women’s British Open.

John’s last week in post will coincide with Carnoustie hosting the Ladies’ Open Amateur Championship on 26-30 June.

A total of 28 young service technicians recently graduated from the John Deere Turf Tech and Ag Tech advanced apprenticeship programmes, run by national training provider Babcock.

The group of third year students, almost a third of the total of 101 apprentices now undergoing training with John Deere and Babcock, received their certificates during a visit to the company’s Mannheim facilities.

The trip also included a tour of the cab manufacturing facility and European Parts Distribution Centre at Bruchsal, and a graduation dinner with John Deere management.

Bruce Cockburn, of W M Dodds Ltd at Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, was named Apprentice of the Year and presented with a crystal plaque, an additional certificate and vouchers for workshop tools worth £300.

The apprentices can go on to complete their education for a fourth year to gain the John Deere Diploma and register at LTA2 level in the industry’s Landbased Technician Accreditation scheme, while starting their adult training within the John Deere University.

Jon Joins Etesia

Etesia UK has appointed Jon Welling as Southern Area Sales Manager for its range of Etesia & Pellenc products covering the South East and the South West.

Jon joins Etesia UK with over 20 years experience in the grasscare and amenity sector and has an enviable and extensive knowledge having previously worked at Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd and more recently Vitax.

Jon’s responsibilities will include providing product advice, demonstrations and assistance to customers and dealers within his region, as well as attending shows and exhibitions. He will also be responsible in the recruitment of new, approved dealers.

Toro is proud to launch the revolutionary new Greensmaster TriFlex range. Designed and built from the ground up, the TriFlex 3400 and TriFlex Hybrid 3420 are both packed with ground-breaking technology and deliver an unrivalled quality of cut and exceptional finish.

Check out the unique cutting unit suspension system and DPA cutting units that hug ground contours for superb cutting consistency. And redesigned balloon-style tyres that make tracks virtually invisible. What’s more, the TriFlex has been built with the operator firmly in mind. Quick-change cutting units can be switched instantly to other units – all without tools. But perhaps most exciting of all, the TriFlex Hybrid 3420 is the first Toro to feature an all-electric cylinder drive system for a greener mower. Discover the all-new Greensmaster TriFlex range for yourself, call us on the number below and join the revolution!

Call 01480 226800 or visit www.toro.com
Jacobsen and GEO Sign Global Agreement

Jacobsen, has signed a new global partnership agreement with the Golf Environment Organisation. This will see the organisations broaden their collaboration jointly to promote awareness, understanding and solutions in the Americas and Asia as well as Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Through significant, long-standing support for GEO, Jacobsen is also investing in bringing practical and credible sustainability programmes for golf course management, renovation and new development to practitioners around the world.

GEO is a non-profit organisation entirely dedicated to sustainability more accessible investment in the things that make the industry more green. Jacobsen, that has supported GEO’s pioneering work to strengthen efforts and results. GEO is a global company and GEO has made a significant difference in the development, delivery, and awareness of the solutions we provide for the golf community.

David Withers, President of Jacobsen, responded, “Jacobsen is a global company and GEO has global relevance and solutions, with programmes accessible worldwide in a growing number of languages and a high quality, credible and increasingly recognised international ecoclub for golf. Expanding our partnership to encompass all of the Jacobsen business units around the globe makes good sense, further aligns our outlook and will multiply many new positive outcomes.”

Alan Prickett, Jacobsen Managing Director for Asia Pacific, said, “In the Asia Pacific region we are seeing pressure for valuable resources such as land, water and energy and it is vitally important that future golf facilities and resorts are built with sustainable development at the forefront. This has to happen right from the initial planning phase through to completion and then be continued through the life of the course.”

I am not long back from an enjoyable week in Harrogate attending BTME. It was a great few days and lots of friends, get lots of excellent education from first class providers and see first hand all the innovations coming to market from our many suppliers.

I have been invited by the Board to remain as Chairman for a further year in order to complete and implement the strategic review. It will also allow for some continuity between the Board and the CEO as Jim has not been in place for a full year.

I will do my best to ensure that members’ interests remain at the forefront of all matters that the Board consider.

I’d like to recognise and thank my employers, Elmwood College, and my team at the golf course for supporting me while I undertake this role. It goes without saying, but I must say, that the support of my family is essential, as it is to so many of us working in this Industry.

While we sometimes struggle to get the balance correct due to the commitment required of the job, our support and understanding of the demands placed upon you must never be taken for granted, and they should always come first.

The outstanding success of the exhibition was a fitting way to celebrate 25 years of the Association. Many of the Board have been involved since the beginning. I’d like to thank them for having the vision to form the Association, which has helped all of us working in the industry today, raised the profile of our work and provided the vital education to constantly develop professionally. It has continued to grow and develop due to the support and hard work of many people throughout the industry.

We have undertaken the privilege of working closely with them over the last two years, as Vice Chairman and Chairman, and I’ve witnessed the dedication and commitment they provide to ensure the Association delivers what the members need. We were fortunate to have excellent leadership through our two previous Chief Executives, Neil Thomas and John Pemberton. I am confident, even more so after BTME, that Jim Couston has the qualities to ensure we continue to grow and develop successfully.

An Association is nothing without its members, I was so proud to witness the professionalism of all our members attending the show. The enthusiasm and hunger to learn more is inspirational and I saw many young members who, I’m sure, have a bright future.

I’d like to thank the many Trade companies and Golf Industry Bodies whose support to the Association has been essential in helping us progress to this stage. We work in a great industry and the camaraderie which exists to the core during this week.

The feedback we received was very positive, and the increase in visitor numbers certainly created a really good atmosphere within the halls. I’d like to thank our fellow members who who were represented, from Australia, Canada, the United States, as well as PIGGA. Their willingness to work together with us will benefit all our members should show some interesting developments in the near future.

The generosity shown by all at our 25th Anniversary Dinner raised over £25000 towards the Chairman’s Charity, “Make Leukaemia History”. Gerry Considine, who spoke at the dinner, has sent a letter of thanks and further information, which is printed elsewhere in this magazine. Sincere thanks also to the members and clubs who donated such valuable prizes for the charity raffle.

We were privileged to have Ken Schofield CBRE propose a toast to the Association and his recognition of the contribution our members have made to the game of golf was a very humbling experience. Our outgoing Chairman, John Pemberton gave a very fitting response and also paid his own tribute to the work of BEGA. His continuous support is of enormous benefit to the Association, for which we are extremely grateful.

We wish him all the best in his retirement. Also to Arche Dunes, Auchterarder Golf Club, Scottish Board Director, who has served faithfully for five years showing great commitment and dedication in representing the members.

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George Bair, Worthing Golf Club, steps in to the vacant Guardian role. His previous Board experience and many years of involvement at Region and Section level will be of great benefit to us all. Stuart Greenwood, The North Berwick Golf Club, takes over the reins from Arche Dunes, again bringing many years of experience at Section and Region level. Both will serve the Board with the best interests of the members at heart.

The progress made in the last 25 years has given us a great foundation. With gratitude and respect for those who brought us to this point, I look forward to making every contribution I can to ensure that we build on our success and I would encourage all members to play their part.

Here’s to the next 25.

Andrew Mellon, Chairman 2012.